

Feathered Friends: Pictorial Appliqué Workshop

Thank you for enrolling in my workshop.

This is a preview of what we'll be doing during our time together. I do have fun teaching and hope I can share what I've learned playing in my studio and from fondling my fabric. The focus of this class is to rethink the traditional appliqué process. I create highly detailed images by using simple shapes and by letting the fabric create texture to give the image a 'painted' effect using a layered appliqué technique.

My appliqué process is quite extensive. You will not finish the project in the time we have together, but you will be able to make quite a bit of progress and you'll have the information you need to continue creating the quilt.

For this class, I've chosen a fluffy, feathered friend as our pattern. I'll be supplying the pattern and the freezer paper templates (\$15 USD) needed to make

your own small art quilt. You'll need to provide your own preferred fabrics.

Be creative and unique! Bring a reference photo of your favorite baby bird and suitable fabric choices. You have the freedom to NOT follow the colors from my original photo (unless that is your heart's desire.)

Choose a color palette that appeals to you as you'll be working on the project for quite awhile.

This is one of my original quilts on which the pattern for the workshop is based.



Photo by David M. Taylor



"After the Rain"
Pictorial Appliqué Quilt
by David Taylor

DAVID TAYLOR
Art Quilts

Tracing and pattern making

My process requires a full-size pattern. For this workshop I'll be providing the pattern and freezer paper templates.

You will want to bring a box of resealable plastic

bags to keep all of your pieces in order.

On the first day I'll demonstrate my pattern drawing technique as it is essential to the process, and then we'll get busy with fabric immediately!

Fabric, fabric, fabric!

I do think it's best to use a many different fabric prints to create texture. Bring a lot of DIFFERENT prints with multiple colors in your preferred palette, not a lot of each color in fat quarters or half-yard pieces. For example: If you have a bit of yellow in your quilt, there is no need to bring several cuts of yellow fabrics. Instead, choose fat quarters and scraps that contain a spot of yellow and other colors seen in the image.

I use fabrics that show texture and movement, hand-dyed fabrics and prints that have no obvious repeat! Look for fabrics that have a lot of detail and color variety in them. Novelty prints and large printed panels work well, too. I do **not** use a lot of batiks as I find them a little tougher to get a needle through with hand appliqué, but that doesn't mean you can't use them. **I strongly urge you to avoid bringing solids and single-color (tone-on-tone) prints.**



Putting it together

I use freezer paper and liquid starch to prepare my pieces for turned-edge hand appliqué. This is the method I'll be teaching one afternoon when we're together.

If you really don't want to stitch by hand, you are allowed to use your own preferred appliqué method. My focus is to teach you a new way to look at pattern making and fabric.

DAVID TAYLOR
Art Quilts

SUPPLY LIST

- A color photograph of a baby bird as reference for color.
- Pencil and eraser
- Paper-cutting scissors and fabric-cutting scissors
- Finger stiletto (available in class or my website shop)
- Plenty of appropriate fabric selections. Colorful textured prints, batiks, hand-dyes, marbled and non-repeating patterned fabrics work best. **Solid-color fabrics are not suitable for the class.** I will also have commercial fabrics in fat quarters available for purchase.
- Inexpensive straight pins for pinning pieces to your design board. (Don't ruin your good appliqué pins!)
- Resealable plastic bags to organize pattern pieces, quart-size or larger recommended.
- Small iron and ironing pad (optional, but recommended); irons and ironing boards are usually provided in the classroom.
- Piece of home insulation board (Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.) approximately 24" x 24" if you are driving to the workshop. Otherwise you will need to disassemble your project to take it home.

You may not be ready for these during the workshop, but you may need them to complete your project.

- Straight pins for applique
- Muslin, Kona cotton, or background sky fabric, as large as your quilt size, for a base in which to applique on (may be determined later).
- Hand-sewing needle
- Hand-sewing thread

\$15 pattern fee includes pattern and pre-printed freezer paper templates!